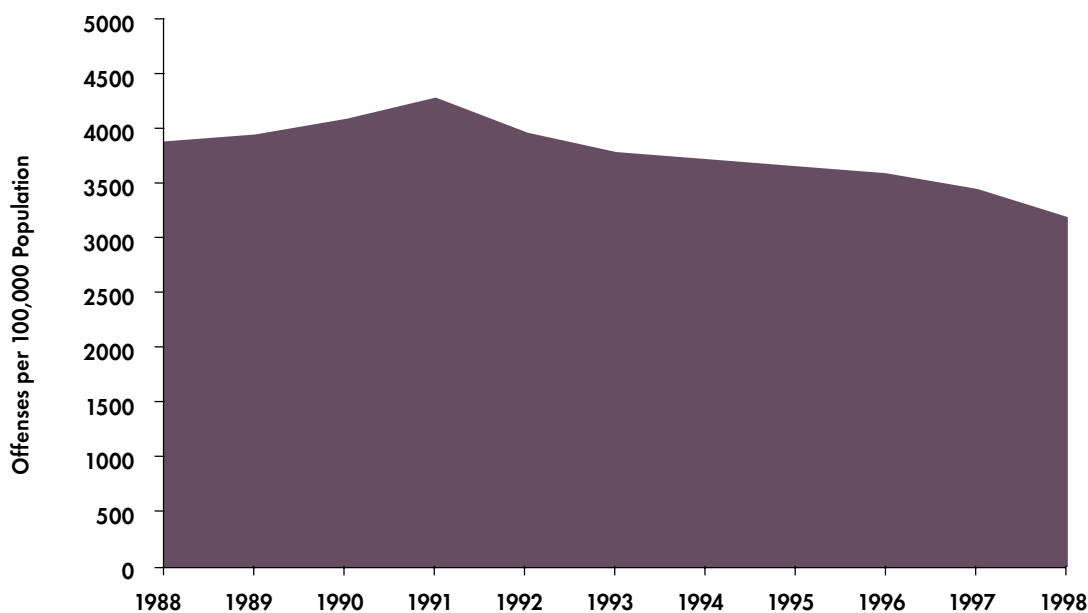


Display 11: Property Crime Offense Rates (1988–1998)

Data Sources: *Crime in Virginia*, Uniform Crime Reporting Section, Virginia Department of State Police;
U.S. Bureau of Census and Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia.

Display 11: Property Crimes in Virginia

Property crime is the second major type of crime examined in this report. Compared to violent crime, there is relatively little research available on property crime offenses and offenders. This is interesting considering that property crimes account for over 90% of all index crimes reported and about 80% of all index crime arrests. Property crimes cost the people of Virginia an enormous monetary loss each year. In 1998 the estimated loss from burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft was more than \$250,000,000.

This display presents the rate of property index crimes reported to Virginia law enforcement agencies per 100,000 population for each year from 1988 to 1998. Property index crimes include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson*.

Under the Uniform Crime Reports system, burglary is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. Larceny is defined as the unlawful taking or stealing of property or articles of value (excluding motor vehicles) without the use of force or violence. Mo-

tor vehicle theft is defined as the unlawful taking or stealing of a motor vehicle, including attempts.

■ Property crime offense rates increased from 1988 through 1991 to a peak of 4,302 per 100,000 in 1991. Offense rates then steadily declined from 1992 through 1998.

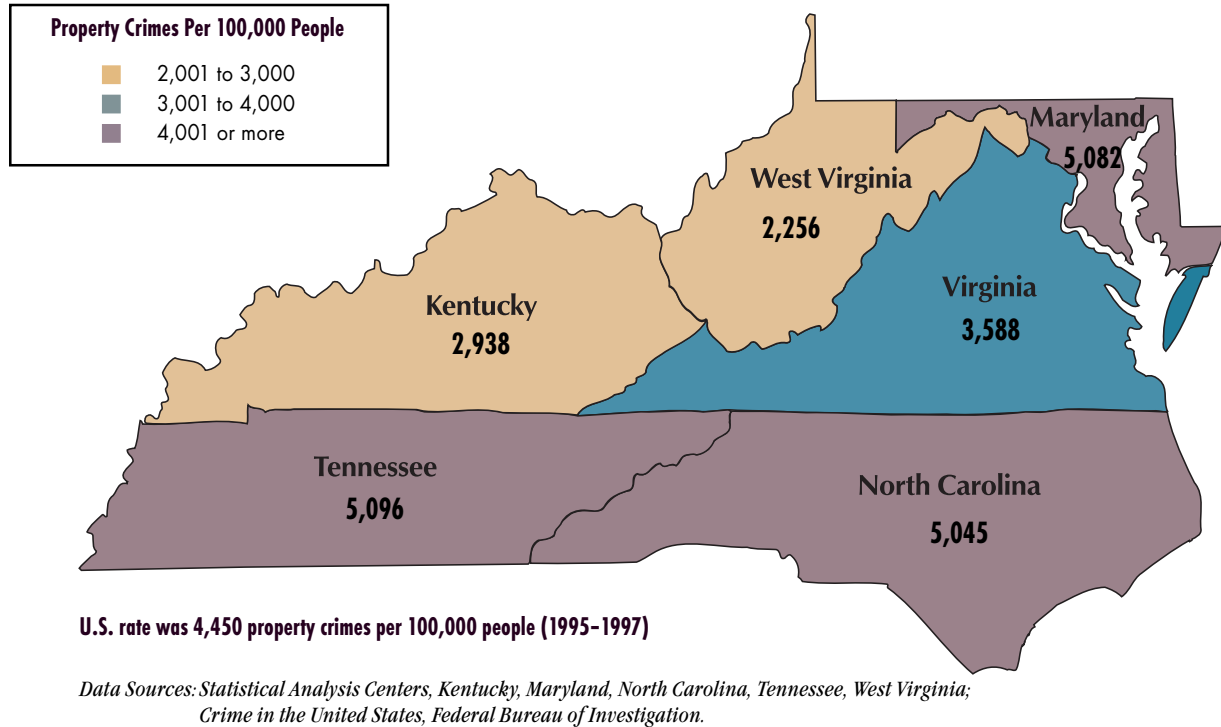
■ Virginia's 1998 property crime rate of 3,232 per 100,000 was the lowest rate in the last decade. Between 1988 and 1998, property crime rates decreased by 17%. Property crime rates have decreased by 25% from the peak rate in 1991.

■ Some criminologists have proposed that decreased property crime rates are due in part to changing offense patterns related to crack cocaine use. According to this theory, drug users who formally engaged in property crimes such as burglary began switching to crimes such as robbery or drug dealing because these crimes provide faster access to cash needed to support their drug habit. Unlike some other drug users, crack users need repeated, fast ac-

cess to cash for drug purchases because crack cocaine's intense but short "high" demands repeated purchases of the drug to maintain the high. This is consistent with Virginia arrest rate data showing that robbery and drug arrests rates were increasing at the time that burglary rates were decreasing.

■ The large number of property crime offenders convicted in Virginia each year have a major impact on Virginia's correctional system. Property crime offenders comprised almost 50% of the 8,659 new commitments to the Virginia Department of Corrections in 1998.

**As noted in Display 1, arson is considered an index crime but is not used to calculate index crime rates. Therefore, arson reports are not included in the property crime rates shown in this display.*

Display 12: Property Crime Rates in Virginia, Border States and the U.S. (1995–1997)

Display 12: Property Crimes in Virginia, Border States and the U.S.

The previous display showed that in 1998 property crime rates in Virginia were at their lowest point in the last decade. Nationally, property crime rates have also been declining in recent years.

To put Virginia's property crime rates in perspective, this display compares Virginia's rate to those of states that border Virginia and to the U.S. as a whole. Rates shown on the map above are based on three-year averages of the number of index property crimes reported per 100,000 population in the years 1995 through 1997.

■ Virginia's property crime rate compared quite favorably to rates for bordering states and the nation. Virginia's property crime rate of 3,588 per 100,000 people was considerably lower than the national average of 4,450 per 100,000 and was lower than the rates for three of the five states that border Virginia: Maryland, North Carolina and Tennessee.

■ The three border states that had property crime rates exceeding Virginia's rate also had rates that exceeded the national rate. Tennessee had the highest rate among the six states examined.

■ Kentucky and West Virginia both had property crime rates below Virginia's rate and the national rate. West Virginia had the lowest rate among the six states examined.

■ As seen in Display 11, property crime rates in Virginia decreased significantly between 1988 and 1998. Among Virginia and the four border states for which 1998 data were available (Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia), Virginia was the only state that showed a drop in property crime rates from 1988 to 1998. Property crime rates in each of the four border states increased between 1988 and 1998.

Note: 1998 data were not used for calculating the three-year averages shown on the map because complete 1998 data were not available for all of the border states.

Virginia's 1995–1997 property crime rate was considerably lower than the national rate and lower than the rates for the surrounding states of Maryland, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Displays 13 and 14: Property Crimes in Virginia Localities

Display 12 showed that Virginia's property crime rate was well below the national average and those of several states bordering Virginia. However, property crime rates vary widely across Virginia's diverse mix of rural, suburban and urban communities. Efforts to prevent and reduce property crimes must be tailored to the volumes and types of these crimes that occur in individual communities.

Displays 13A and 13B show the average property crime rates and ranks for each of Virginia's 95 counties and 41 independent cities for the periods 1988 to 1990 and 1996 to 1998. Crime rates are grouped in five levels, based on the three-year average number of property crimes reported per 100,000 people in each locality. Three-year average crime rates are used to provide a stable measure of crime in communities. This is critical when measuring crime rates for small localities in which a small change in the number of crimes from one year to another may produce large changes in crime rates. Numbers on the maps indicate each locality's total property crime ranking relative to all other localities. For example, Emporia, with a number 1 on the map in Display 13A, had the highest total property crime rate during 1988-1990.

Display 14 presents detailed 1996-1998 average property crime rate information for each locality. The total property crime rate and rate for the three major types of property crimes are shown for each locality, as well as each locality's rank on these measures relative to all other localities in the Commonwealth.

■ As was the case with violent crime rates, generally localities with the highest property crime rates in 1988-1990 also had the highest rates about 10 years later in 1996-1998. In 1988-1990, the five localities with the highest property crime rates in Virginia were the cities of Emporia, Richmond, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Roanoke. In 1996-1998, the five localities with highest rates were the cities of Winchester, Richmond, Petersburg, Emporia and Portsmouth.

■ Regardless of which time period is examined, the maps in Display 13 clearly show that the highest property crime rates in Virginia occurred in urban areas. In both 1988-1990 and 1996-1998, the ten localities with the highest rates were all cities. In 1996-1998, the 20 localities with the highest property crime rates were cities.

■ Among counties, those counties that are urbanized or are adjacent to urban areas tended to have the highest property crime rates. For example, in 1996-1998, the heavily populated counties of Chesterfield and Henrico, which border the city of Richmond, ranked 34 and 24, respectively. Similarly, in urban northern Virginia, the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William had property crime ranks of 21, 43 and 40, respectively.

■ Generally, rural counties in the far western areas of Virginia had the lowest property crime rates during both time periods examined. In 1988-1990, the five localities with the lowest rates were Craig, Cumberland, Floyd, Grayson and Lee counties. In 1996-1998, the five localities with the lowest rates were Craig, Dickenson, Grayson, Highland and King and Queen counties.

■ The table in Display 14 indicates that localities with high overall property crime rates tended to rank high on all three types of property crimes examined. For example, the city of Richmond, which ranked 1st on its overall property crime rate, ranked 1st on motor vehicle theft, 2nd on burglary, and 7th on larceny.

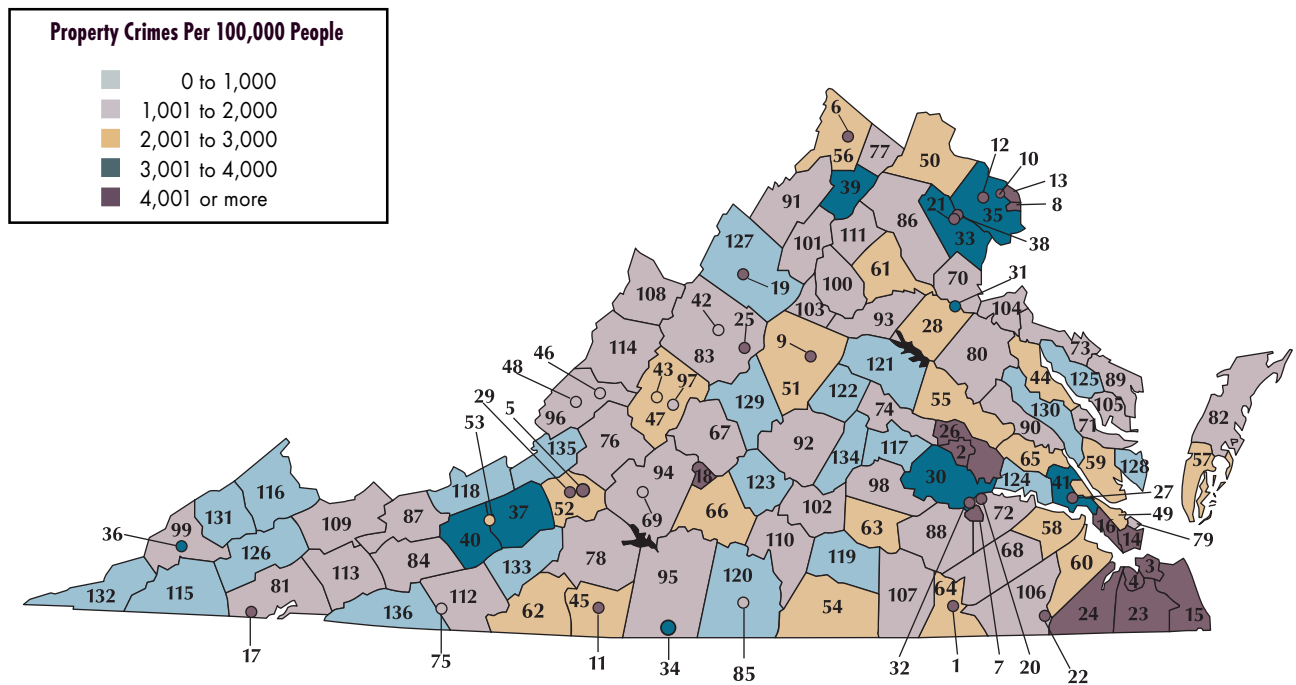
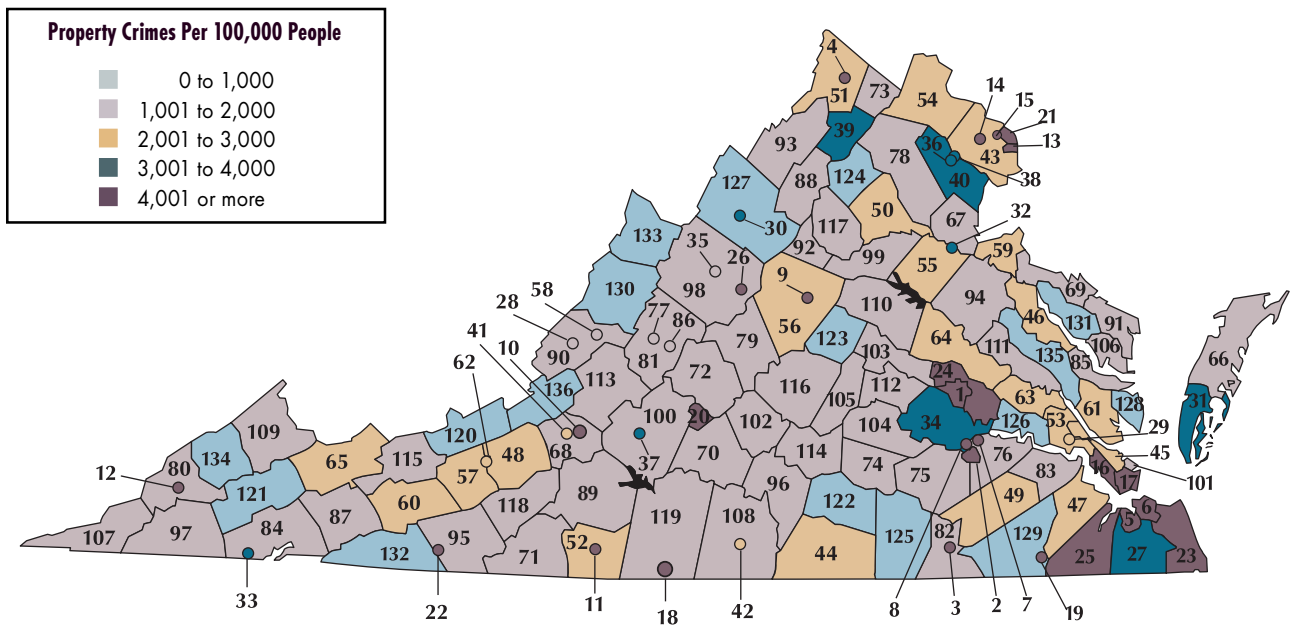
■ Several urbanized localities in northern Virginia had very high motor vehicle theft rates relative to their rates for other types of property crimes. For example, Arlington county ranked 6th in Virginia for motor vehicle theft, but ranked 21st overall, 22nd on larceny and 76th on burglary. Similarly, Alexandria ranked 4th in Virginia on motor vehicle theft, but 13th overall, 17th on larceny, and 20th on burglary.

■ Property crime rates, like population-based rates for other types of crime, may be somewhat inflated in localities with

large transient populations. For example, Richmond, Norfolk and Charlottesville had relatively high rates in 1996-1998. These localities, which contain major universities and/or military bases, have large transient populations that may increase their reported crime rates.

■ Several localities with the highest property crime rates in Virginia were also among those shown in Display 5 to have the highest violent crime rates. The cities of Emporia, Hopewell, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond and Winchester were among the ten highest ranked on both violent and property crimes in 1996-1998.

Property crime rates were the highest in Virginia's urban areas. During 1996-1998, the 20 localities with the highest property crime rates were all cities. Among counties, those that are highly urbanized or that border urban areas tended to have the highest rates.

Display 13A: Property Crime Rates Across Virginia (1988-1990)**Display 13B: Property Crime Rates Across Virginia (1996-1998)**

— Display 14: Property Crime Rates for Virginia Localities (1996–1998) —

COUNTIES	TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME		BURGLARY		LARCENY		MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Accomack	1997	66	447	54	1377	72	174	43
Albemarle	2328	56	410	64	1831	54	87	98
Alleghany	1461	90	238	116	1126	83	97	87
Amelia	1216	104	294	96	824	104	98	86
Amherst	1877	72	229	119	1522	64	127	63
Appomattox	1226	102	226	122	939	95	61	118
Arlington	4436	21	375	76	3469	22	592	6
Augusta	1338	98	299	93	925	97	114	70
Bath	782	130	177	131	551	121	54	122
Bedford	1299	100	300	91	929	96	71	111
Bland	1067	115	409	65	606	116	53	123
Botetourt	1097	113	209	125	841	103	47	127
Brunswick	834	125	299	92	509	125	26	134
Buchanan	1178	109	375	77	693	113	110	73
Buckingham	1050	116	422	62	537	124	91	93
Campbell	1969	70	365	78	1443	68	161	47
Caroline	1395	94	313	88	958	93	124	65
Carroll	1386	95	420	63	852	102	114	71
Charles City	824	126	293	99	454	131	78	105
Charlotte	1375	96	383	71	861	100	131	61
Chesterfield	3450	34	580	30	2703	35	167	46
Clarke	1872	73	394	69	1410	71	68	114
Craig	407	136	93	136	293	135	20	136
Culpeper	2438	50	361	80	1957	46	119	69
Cumberland	1193	105	520	38	578	117	94	89
Dickenson	491	134	159	134	305	134	27	132
Dinwiddie	1806	75	383	72	1302	76	121	66
Essex	2596	46	516	40	1942	49	137	59
Fairfax	2790	43	228	121	2337	42	225	30
Fauquier	1771	78	442	56	1186	80	143	55
Floyd	1026	118	462	49	457	130	107	80
Fluvanna	896	123	333	84	505	127	59	120
Franklin	1481	89	273	106	1105	85	103	82
Frederick	2417	51	498	43	1761	57	158	48
Giles	998	120	173	132	740	108	85	99
Gloucester	2138	61	499	42	1528	62	111	72
Goochland	1226	103	495	44	630	115	101	83
Grayson	708	132	262	109	393	132	52	124

Rank is locality's offense rate relative to rates for all other Virginia localities in the table.

More than one locality may have the same crime rate due to rounding. However, each locality has a unique rank because ranks were calculated using exact rather than rounded crime rates.

— Display 14 (Cont.): Property Crime Rates for Virginia Localities (1996–1998) —

COUNTIES	TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME		BURGLARY		LARCENY		MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Greene	1432	92	256	111	1068	88	107	78
Greensville	1693	82	392	70	1242	79	59	119
Halifax	1180	108	351	81	721	111	108	75
Hanover	2014	64	235	117	1717	59	61	117
Henrico	4340	24	725	21	3331	24	284	22
Henry	2413	52	791	15	1368	73	253	26
Highland	680	133	280	104	373	133	27	133
Isle of Wight	2512	47	467	47	1832	53	214	33
James City	2375	53	327	87	1956	47	92	92
King and Queen	459	135	179	130	250	136	31	131
King George	2279	59	540	35	1522	63	217	31
King William	1164	111	296	94	802	106	66	115
Lancaster	1186	106	470	46	669	114	47	126
Lee	1184	107	381	74	734	109	68	113
Loudoun	2354	54	288	100	1973	45	93	91
Louisa	1172	110	484	45	542	123	145	53
Lunenburg	952	122	188	128	702	112	62	116
Madison	1048	117	275	105	731	110	43	128
Mathews	796	128	161	133	555	120	80	103
Mecklenburg	2666	44	763	17	1773	56	130	62
Middlesex	1528	85	465	48	894	99	170	45
Montgomery	2487	48	458	51	1935	50	94	88
Nelson	1763	79	630	26	1034	89	99	85
New Kent	2064	63	408	66	1483	66	172	44
Northampton	3623	31	1086	5	2358	41	179	41
Northumberland	1458	91	426	61	948	94	84	100
Nottoway	1807	74	293	98	1414	70	101	84
Orange	1320	99	230	118	982	91	107	76
Page	1495	88	554	33	858	101	83	101
Patrick	1911	71	644	25	1083	87	183	39
Pittsylvania	1010	119	344	83	559	118	107	77
Powhatan	1143	112	286	101	776	107	81	102
Prince Edward	1069	114	117	135	913	98	39	129
Prince George	1780	76	399	67	1271	78	110	74
Prince William	3165	40	519	39	2392	40	254	25
Pulaski	2315	57	379	75	1860	52	76	108
Rappahannock	863	124	255	112	557	119	52	125
Richmond	777	131	196	126	492	128	88	97

Rank is locality's offense rate relative to rates for all other Virginia localities in the table.

More than one locality may have the same crime rate due to rounding. However, each locality has a unique rank because ranks were calculated using exact rather than rounded crime rates.

— Display 14 (Cont.): Property Crime Rates for Virginia Localities (1996–1998) —

	TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME		BURGLARY		LARCENY		MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
COUNTIES								
Roanoke	1974	68	271	107	1625	60	78	106
Rockbridge	1711	81	294	97	1345	74	73	110
Rockingham	802	127	223	123	509	126	70	112
Russell	958	121	332	85	551	122	75	109
Scott	1346	97	452	53	804	105	91	94
Shenandoah	1424	93	214	124	1155	82	56	121
Smyth	1495	87	283	102	1122	84	90	95
Southampton	792	129	309	90	462	129	21	135
Spotsylvania	2351	55	265	108	1943	48	143	54
Stafford	1976	67	251	113	1568	61	156	50
Surry	1693	83	615	27	958	92	120	68
Sussex	2478	49	588	29	1751	58	140	58
Tazewell	2005	65	458	52	1428	69	120	67
Warren	3217	39	499	41	2485	39	233	27
Washington	1680	84	258	110	1298	77	124	64
Westmoreland	1973	69	555	32	1328	75	89	96
Wise	1729	80	434	58	1155	81	140	57
Wythe	2227	60	196	127	1886	51	146	52
York	2607	45	295	95	2179	43	133	60
INDEPENDENT CITIES								
Alexandria	5148	13	727	20	3707	17	714	4
Bedford	3396	37	364	79	2850	33	182	40
Bristol	3465	33	428	60	2834	34	203	37
Buena Vista	1524	86	346	82	1099	86	79	104
Charlottesville	6021	9	926	8	4782	8	313	16
Chesapeake	3989	27	831	13	2861	32	297	18
Clifton Forge	2293	58	398	68	1789	55	105	81
Colonial Heights	6354	8	429	59	5698	3	227	28
Covington	3848	28	706	22	2986	29	156	49
Danville	4790	18	844	12	3661	19	285	21
Emporia	7653	3	818	14	6335	1	500	7
Fairfax	5008	14	530	37	4114	13	364	11
Falls Church	5000	15	442	55	4214	12	344	14
Franklin	4523	19	758	18	3558	20	208	36
Fredericksburg	3473	32	310	89	2951	30	212	34
Galax	4429	22	239	114	4049	14	141	56
Hampton	4858	17	703	23	3758	16	397	10
Harrisonburg	3748	30	530	36	3038	28	179	42
Hopewell	6557	7	1019	6	5192	5	346	13

Rank is locality's offense rate relative to rates for all other Virginia localities in the table.

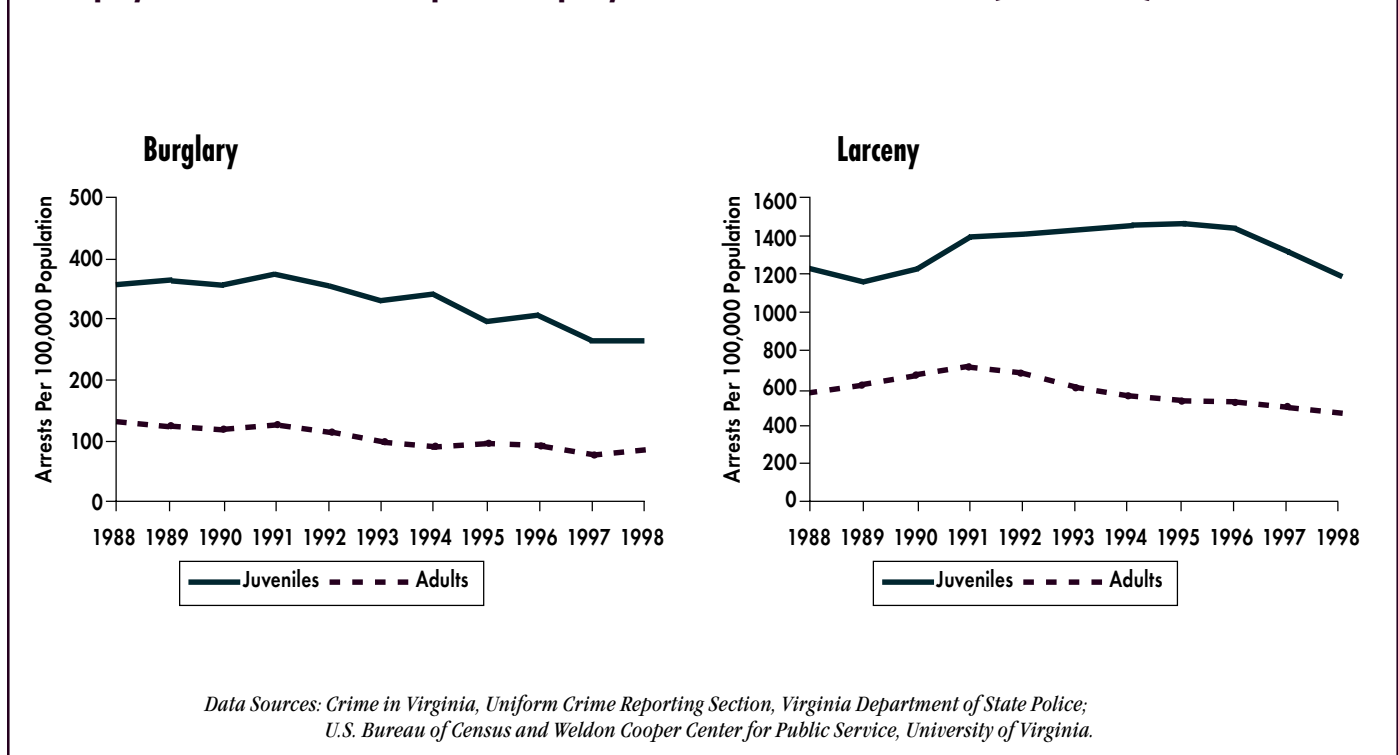
More than one locality may have the same crime rate due to rounding. However, each locality has a unique rank because ranks were calculated using exact rather than rounded crime rates.

— **Display 14 (Cont.): Property Crime Rates for Virginia Localities (1996–1998)** —

	TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME		BURGLARY		LARCENY		MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
INDEPENDENT CITIES								
Lexington	1776	77	238	115	1500	65	37	130
Lynchburg	4508	20	750	19	3481	21	277	23
Manassas	3417	36	381	73	2685	36	351	12
Manassas Park	3278	38	331	86	2661	37	286	19
Martinsville	5338	11	869	11	3994	15	475	8
Newport News	4874	16	764	16	3699	18	411	9
Norfolk	6972	6	1100	4	5246	4	626	5
Norton	5210	12	460	50	4540	10	210	35
Petersburg	8022	2	1940	1	5177	6	905	2
Poquoson	1295	101	186	129	1032	90	77	107
Portsmouth	7258	5	1743	3	4681	9	833	3
Radford	2127	62	567	31	1453	67	107	79
Richmond	8134	1	1880	2	5023	7	1231	1
Roanoke	5689	10	922	9	4435	11	332	15
Salem	2985	41	229	120	2604	38	152	51
South Boston	2823	42	551	34	2087	44	185	38
Staunton	3449	35	440	57	2914	31	94	90
Suffolk	4270	25	913	10	3072	27	285	20
Virginia Beach	4386	23	696	24	3463	23	227	29
Waynesboro	4020	26	605	28	3148	26	267	24
Williamsburg	3829	29	283	103	3331	25	216	32
Winchester	7263	4	993	7	5965	2	306	17

Rank is locality's offense rate relative to rates for all other Virginia localities in the table.

More than one locality may have the same crime rate due to rounding. However, each locality has a unique rank because ranks were calculated using exact rather than rounded crime rates.

Display 15: Arrests Rates for Specific Property Crimes—Adults and Juveniles (1988–1998)

Display 15: Arrests for Specific Property Crimes

As noted in Display 11, arrests for property crimes make up about 80% of all index crime arrests. This display presents adult and juvenile arrest rates for the four major types of property crimes: burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Rates shown are based on numbers of adults and juveniles arrested per 100,000 adults and juveniles in Virginia's population.

This is the first display in this report to examine arson, which is defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting system as any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, of a dwelling house, public building, vehicle or personal property of another.

■ Overall, arrest rates for property crimes declined between 1988 and 1998. Adult arrest rates for all four types of property crimes decreased during this period, and juvenile arrest rates declined for all types of property crimes except for arson.

■ Throughout the period 1988 to 1998, arrest rates for juveniles were much higher than adult arrest rates for all four types of property offenses examined. In 1998, for example, juveniles were arrested for burglary at more than three times the rate for adults. In the same year, juveniles were arrested for larceny at more than twice the adult rate, for motor vehicle theft at four times the adult rate, and for arson at nearly six times the adult rate.

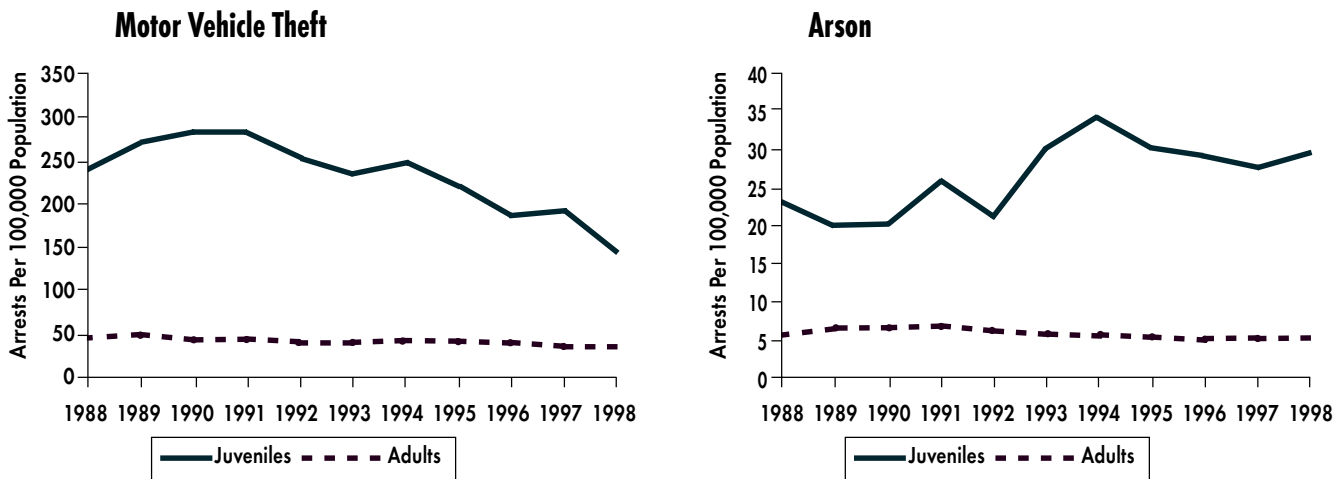
■ Burglary arrest rates for adults declined by 32% from 1988 to 1998, and juvenile burglary arrest rates declined by 23%. The 1998 burglary arrest rates for both adults and juveniles were the lowest of any point during the period examined.

■ Larceny arrest rates for both adults and juveniles also declined from 1988 to 1998. Adult arrest rates increased from 1988 to 1991, but steadily declined thereafter and in 1998 reached their lowest point of the decade. The adult arrest rate decreased by

18% from 1988 to 1998. Juvenile arrest rates for larceny generally increased from 1988 to 1994, but then steadily decreased and by 1998 reached a rate three percent below their 1988 rate.

■ Both adult and juvenile arrest rates for larceny were far higher than arrest rates for the three other types of property offenses examined. Larceny accounted for the overwhelming majority of index property crime arrests. In 1998, larceny accounted for 78% of adult arrests for index property crimes and 72% of juvenile index property crime arrests.

■ Motor vehicle theft arrest rates declined for both adults and juveniles from 1988 to 1998, with juveniles showing a major decline in arrests between 1990 and 1998. This was the only property offense type for which juvenile arrest rates showed a greater overall decline than the adult rates.

Display 15 (Cont.): Arrests Rates for Specific Property Crimes—Adults and Juveniles (1988–1998)

Data Sources: *Crime in Virginia*, Uniform Crime Reporting Section, Virginia Department of State Police;
U.S. Bureau of Census and Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia.

■ Adult arrest rates for arson were consistently very low throughout the period examined, ranging from five to a maximum of seven arrests per 100,000 adults. Juvenile arrest rates, although higher than the adult rates, also were consistently low and ranged from 20 to 34 arrests per 100,000 juveniles. The juvenile arson arrest rate was the only property offense arrest rate which increased from 1988 to 1998.

■ The UCR classifies arson as an index offense, but recognizes that the characteristics of the offense make it difficult to identify a fire as an arson, or to classify it as a violent or a property offense. In this report, arson is considered a property offense.

■ Because arson is such a complex offense to identify and classify, the Virginia State Police and FBI national UCR reports do not include arson offenses in calculating index crime rates, nor is it included in crime rate calculations elsewhere in this report.

■ Arrest rates for property crimes do not fully reflect the level of property crimes that occur, because the percentage of property crimes that are cleared through the arrest of a suspected offender is very low. In 1998, only 20% of reported burglaries, 21% of reported larcenies and 24% of reported motor vehicle thefts statewide were cleared through an arrest. Law enforcement's ability to solve property crimes is hampered because many property crimes are petty crimes of opportunity that occur without witnesses and because these types of crimes occur in such large numbers.

Note: Adult arrest rates were computed using the number of persons age 18 and older in Virginia's population. Juvenile arrest rates were computed using the number of persons age 10 to 17 in Virginia's population. Under Virginia law, juveniles are defined as any persons under age 18 at the time of the offense. However, it is extremely rare for persons under age 10 to be arrested for crimes, so persons under age 10 are usually excluded from

the population number when arrest rates are calculated. Additionally, Virginia law limits juveniles that can be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice to those older than the age of 10.

In every year from 1988 to 1998, arrest rates for all major types of property crimes were far higher for juveniles than for adults.

— Display 16: Demographic Profile of Convicted Property Felons by Current Conviction Offense (1995–1997) —

	Burglary [N* = 4656]	Larceny [N* = 12499]	Motor Vehicle Theft [N* = 952]	Total Property Offenses [N* = 18107]
Age				
14-17	1%	0%	2%	1%
18-24	49	32	56	37
25-29	17	19	16	18
30-34	15	19	13	17
35-39	10	15	7	13
40+	8	16	6	13
Race				
White	57	45	40	48
Non-White	43	55	60	52
Gender				
Female	6	27	4	20
Male	94	73	96	80
Marital Status				
Married	11	17	9	15
Single	89	83	91	85
Education				
0-8	18	13	18	15
9-11	43	34	44	37
12	31	36	29	34
13+	9	17	10	14
Employment				
Full-time	32	39	31	37
Part-time	13	14	15	14
Unemployed	49	41	49	43
Other	5	6	5	5
Drug Abuse				
Yes	48	40	42	42
No	52	60	58	58
Alcohol Abuse				
Yes	38	27	37	30
No	62	73	63	70
Family Felony Convictions				
Yes	33	32	36	32
No	67	68	64	68
Mental Health Treatment				
Yes	31	26	28	27
No	69	74	72	73

Data Source: Pre/Post-Sentence Investigation (PSI) database, Virginia Department of Corrections.

*N represents the number of cases. Total number of cases for each offense type may not be included for all demographic characteristics due to some cases with missing/unknown characteristics values.

Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Display 16: Demographic Profile of Virginia Property Crime Felons

The motivation for most property crimes is usually monetary or personal gain. However, the characteristics of persons involved in property crimes may differ depending on the specific types of offenses involved. These offenses may range from a larceny such as minor shoplifting to a burglary involving the breaking and entering of a home or business.

This display provides demographic information on offenders convicted of property crimes in general and for three specific types of property crimes: burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Data shown are extracted from Pre and Post-Sentence Investigation reports and based on three-year averages for offenders convicted for property offenses in the years 1995–1997. Because the PSI collects detailed information on offense types, the offense types presented in this and the following display are not directly comparable with the offense types previously presented using UCR arrest data.

■ Overall, 38% of convicted property offenders were under the age of 25. About one-half of those convicted of burglary, and almost 58% of those convicted of motor vehicle theft, were under age 25. Larceny offenders were less likely to be young; only about one-third of the larceny offenders were less than age 25.

■ Although many property offenders in this display were young, only one percent were under the age of 18. As was the case with the violent offenders examined in Display 9, most juvenile offenders in Virginia come under the purview of the Department of Juvenile Justice and were not included in the PSI data examined in this report.

■ Overall, whites and non-whites were about equally represented among convicted property offenders. Slightly more than one-half (52%) were non-white and 48% were white. However, non-whites were still disproportionately represented relative to their percentage of Virginia's total population.

■ Offenders convicted of burglary offenses were somewhat more likely to be white, whereas those convicted of larceny and motor vehicle theft were more likely to be non-white.

■ The roughly equal racial composition of property offenders is quite different from the racial composition of other types of offenders examined in this report. For example, Display 9 showed that 70% of the offenders convicted for violent crimes were non-white, and Display 24 will show that 74% of the convicted drug offenders in Virginia were non-white.

■ The majority (80%) of convicted property offenders were males. Females were much more likely to be convicted of larceny than of burglary or motor vehicle theft. More than one-quarter of larceny convictions were female, compared to about five percent for burglary and motor vehicle theft.

■ More than one-half (52%) of convicted property offenders had less than a high-school education. More than 60% of persons convicted for burglary and motor vehicle theft had not completed high school, whereas most offenders convicted for larceny offenses had at least a high school education.

■ Slightly more than 40% of property offenders displayed some evidence of prior drug abuse. Drug abuse was somewhat more frequent among burglars than among those convicted of larceny or motor vehicle theft.

■ About one-third of convicted property offenders had a family member with at least one prior conviction for a felony offense.

■ Twenty-seven percent of convicted property offenders had previous mental health treatment. There were no major differences between offender groups on this characteristic.

■ The property felons examined in this display exhibited several differences from the convicted violent felons examined in

Display 9. As a group, the property felons tended to be older than the violent felons. Less than 40% of the property offenders were under age 25, compared to almost one-half of the violent felons. Only 52% of the property felons were minorities, compared to 70% of the violent felons. Twenty percent of the property offenders were females, compared to only six percent of violent offenders.

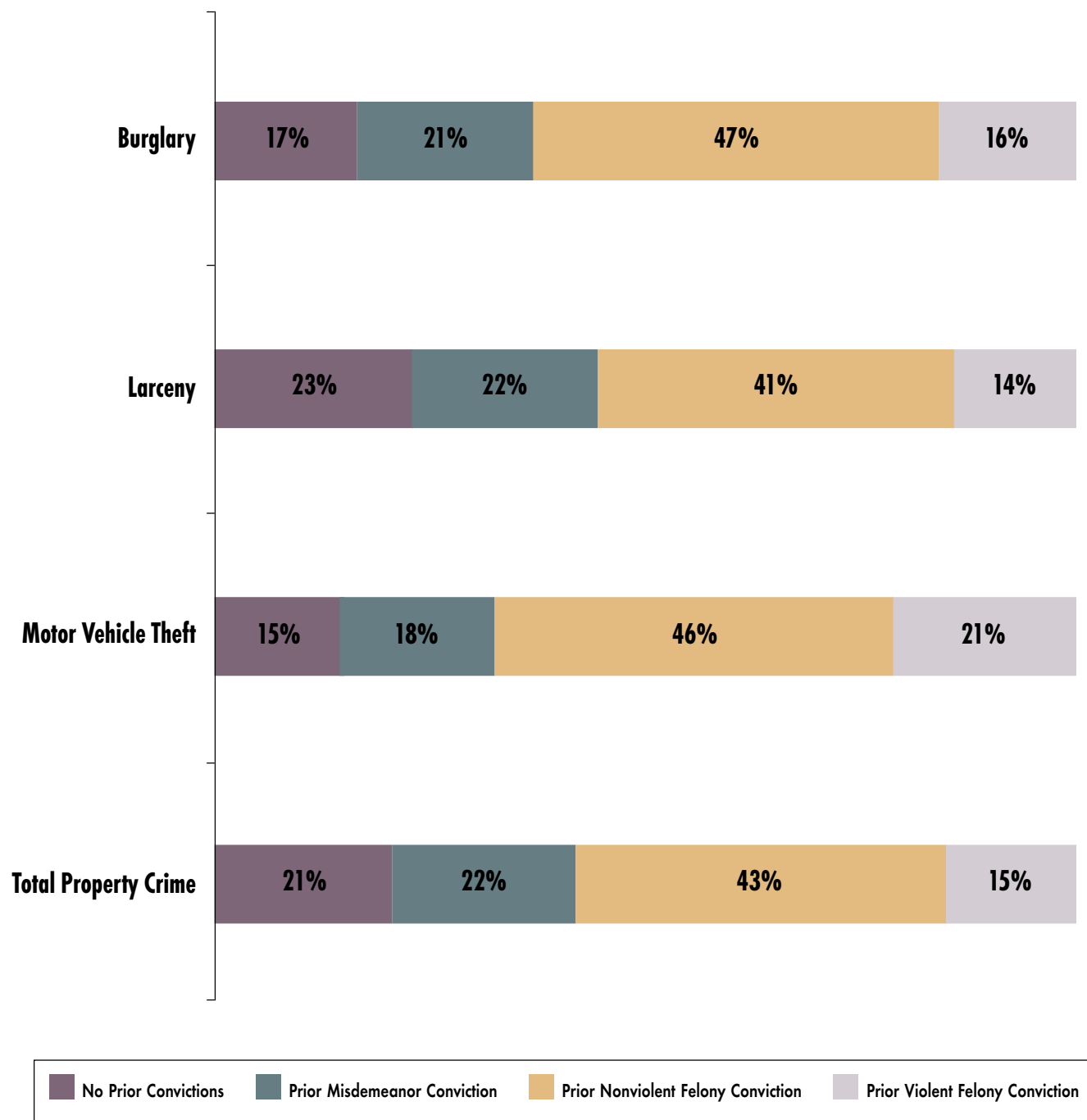
■ On several characteristics, property offenders were very similar to the violent offenders examined in Display 9. About one-half of both the property and violent offenders had any type of employment. Forty-two percent of both groups displayed some evidence of drug abuse, and about one-third of each group had a family member with at least one prior felony conviction.

NOTE: The Code of Virginia provides various definitions and penalties for property offenses, based on the circumstances and seriousness of the offense. Offenses included in Display 16 are defined in detail in Chapter 5 of Title 18.2 of the Code of Virginia. Generally, the Code of Virginia defines these offenses as follows:

Burglary—breaking and entering the home or structure of another with the intent to commit a felony or larceny.

Larceny—the wrongful or fraudulent taking of personal goods belonging to another with the intention to permanently deprive the owner of the goods.

Motor vehicle theft—grand larceny (theft of goods valued at more than \$200.00) of a motor vehicle.

Display 17: Prior Criminal Record Information for Convicted Property Felons (1995–1997)

Prior violent convictions include prior juvenile and adult convictions for a violent offense.

Prior nonviolent convictions include prior juvenile and adult convictions for a non-violent offense (including drug offenses).

Percentages for each offender group may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Data Source: Pre/Post-Sentence Investigation database, Virginia Department of Corrections.

Display 17: Prior Criminal Record Information for Virginia Property Crime Felons

An earlier display showed that most Virginia felons convicted of violent offenses had a record of prior criminal convictions. This display examines the prior records of convicted property felons in Virginia, and shows similar findings.

This display presents prior criminal record information for offenders convicted of felony property offenses in general and for three specific types of offenses: burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The information presented is based on the averages of prior criminal records for individuals convicted of property crimes in Virginia from 1995 to 1997. Prior record information is extracted from the automated Pre- and Post-Sentence Investigation reports database.

Prior record information is grouped into four categories of escalating seriousness: no prior record, record indicating a prior misdemeanor conviction, record indicating a prior nonviolent felony conviction, or record indicating a prior conviction for a violent felony offense. Each of these categories denotes the most serious offense appearing on the offenders' prior records.

■ The overwhelming majority of all offenders convicted of a property crime had a record of prior criminal convictions. Overall, almost 80% of the property offenders had prior criminal records. Offenders convicted of motor vehicle theft were the most likely to have a prior conviction, whereas persons convicted of larceny were the least likely to have a prior conviction.

■ Nearly 60% of all property felons had a record indicating at least one prior conviction for a felony offense of some type. By contrast, only 22% of these offenders had a misdemeanor as their most serious prior offense.

■ Prior convictions for violent felony offenses were relatively infrequent among property offenders. Overall, 15% of this group had a prior violent felony conviction.

Persons convicted of motor vehicle theft were most likely to have a prior violent conviction.

■ As a group, the convicted property felons examined were slightly more likely to have a prior criminal conviction than the violent offender group examined in Display 10. The percentages of prior offenses that were misdemeanors and felonies were about equal for both property and violent offenders, although violent offenders with prior felony convictions were almost twice as likely as property offenders to have a conviction for a violent felony offense.

■ Property crimes as a component of offender "criminal careers" has gained interest recently due to preliminary research involving Virginia's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The Commonwealth currently collects DNA samples from all convicted felons, and the resulting DNA profiles are then entered into the CODIS database. These DNA profiles can be compared to forensic evidence collected from other cases. Like standard fingerprints, these DNA 'fingerprints' can be used to link a specific offender to a particular crime. Of particular interest to criminal justice professionals is the discovery that more than one-half of the "cold hit" rape offenders identified through CODIS to date originally had their DNA entered into the system based on a property offense, burglary in particular. Although it is unclear whether this link reveals true behavioral escalation or a criminal 'career', this finding holds significant public safety implications and merits further study.

Note: Under Code of Virginia §18.2-8, "Offenses are either felonies or misdemeanors. Such offenses as are punishable with death or confinement in a state correctional facility are felonies; all other offenses are misdemeanors."

***Almost 80% of the people
convicted of a felony
property crime in Virginia
from 1995 to 1997
already had a record that
included at least one
prior criminal conviction.***
